

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 117476 TOSEC 010083

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT SECSTATE FROM NATO 20 MAY.

QUOTE: S E C R E T USNATO 2814

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO FR OVIP (PRESIDENT FORD)

SUBJ: LUNS' VIEWS ON REPORTED PLANS FOR MEETING BETWEEN
GISCARD AND THE PRESIDENT

1. LUNS TOLD ME, IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING IN HIS OFFICE
MAY 20, OF HIS CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS THAT GISCARD AND THE PRE-
SIDENT WOULD MEET IN BRUSSELS AT THE TIME OF THE NATO SUMMIT.
2. REFERRING TO AN ARTICLE BY FRED EMERY PUBLISHED IN THE LON-
DON TIMES MAY 19, LUNS SAID HE RAISED THE SUBJECT BECAUSE
THE TIMES ARTICLE, WHICH STATED, "THE UNEXPECTED MEETING ARRANG-
ED IN BRUSSELS BETWEEN MR. FORD AND M. GISCARD D'ESTAING
APPEARS TO HAVE LEFT A LINGERING HOPE THAT THE FRENCH PRESIDENT
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WILL RELENT AND ATTEND THE NATO CONFERENCE", HAD MADE THE

POSSIBILITY OF A BILATERAL MEETING A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. BASED ON INFORMATION GIVEN HIM ON A HIGHLY PERSONAL BASIS, LUNS UNDERSTOOD THAT GISCARD HAD ASKED TO BE INVITED TO THE BELGIAN KING'S DINNER ON MAY 29 SINCE HE PLANNED TO BE IN BRUSSELS THEN TO SEE THE PRESIDENT. THE BELGIANS REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD INVITE GISCARD TO THE DINNER ONLY BECAUSE HE WAS IN BRUSSELS AT THE TIME OF THE DINNER, NOT BECAUSE OF OTHER PLANS.

3. LUNS SAID IT WAS DEPLORABLE THAT GISCARD WOULD NOT COME TO THE NATO MEETING. IF THE US HAD INVITED GISCARD TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD, HE SAID, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IF THE US ALSO HAD PROPOSED ANOTHER PLACE FOR THE MEETING, SINCE GISCARD'S PRESENCE IN BRUSSELS AT THE TIME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING AT SUMMIT LEVEL AND HIS FAILURE TO ATTEND WOULD BE REGARDED AS "A SLAP IN THE FACE" OF THE COUNCIL. MOREOVER, SINCE GISCARD WILL BE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, LUNS BELIEVED IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE US "WAS QUITE HAPPY WITH THIS ANTI-NATO DEMONSTRATION". IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE, LUNS SAID, IF THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED TO MEET GISCARD IN, SAY, LUXEMBOURG. THE APPARENT SNUB OF NATO WOULD BE LESS, IN LUNS' VIEW, IF GISCARD MADE AN APPEARANCE AT LEAST AT THE CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE COUNCIL PRIOR TO THE DINNER ON MAY 29.

4. LUNS ALSO REPORTED THAT GISCARD WAS SAID TO HAVE WANTED TO SEND CHIRAC TO THE SUMMIT, AND THAT CHIRAC WAS FURIOUS BECAUSE, AS THE LEADING GAULLIST, HE DID NOT WISH TO TAKE THE BLAME FOR MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATING FRANCE WITH NATO. BRUCE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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